

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
AB Specialty Silicones Fire - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #2
Progress POLREP
AB Specialty Silicones Fire

Waukegan, IL
Latitude: 42.3929181 Longitude: -87.8938617

To:
Mark Johnson, ATSDR
Blaine Kinsley, Illinois EPA
Valencia Darby, U.S. DOI
Lindy Nelson, U.S. DOI
Rachel Bassler, U.S. EPA
Carolyn Bohlen, U.S. EPA
Sam Borries, U.S. EPA
Jaime Brown, U.S. EPA
Phillippa Cannon, U.S. EPA
Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA
HQ EOC, U.S. EPA
John Glover, U.S. EPA
Steve Ridenour, U.S. EPA

From: Dan Haag, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 5/7/2019
Reporting Period: 5/6/19 - 5/7/19

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:		
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:		
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	5/4/2019	Start Date:	5/4/2019
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 2145 hours on 5/3/2019, an explosion occurred at the AB Specialty Silicones, LLC plant in Waukegan, Illinois (Site). The explosion could be felt for miles and damage was caused to numerous adjacent buildings. Waukegan Fire Department (WFD) extinguished the fire by 0330 hours on 5/4/19. The incident has left 3 dead, 1 missing and presumed dead, and 3 hospitalized.

1.1.2.1 Location

AB Specialty Silicones, LLC is located at 3790 Sunset Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

AB Specialty Silicones, LLC is a manufacturer and distributor of specialty silicone chemicals, serving industries including: personal care, chemical manufacturing, dental & medical, mold making, electronic encapsulation, adhesives/sealants, coatings, gypsum, and pressroom. Two primary products produced and stored at the facility include: octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (product name D4) and polydimethylsiloxane (product name SF350). Plant representatives also stated that small quantities of toluene, isopropyl alcohol, acetone, phosphoric acid, acetic acid, and sodium hydroxide flake are stored and used at the plant.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

At 0100 hours on 5/4/19, Illinois EPA requested the assistance of U.S. EPA to conduct air monitoring downwind of the incident to support WFD. An EPA OSC and START contractors arrived on scene at approximately 0345 hours and to support WFD and LCHD with downwind air monitoring. Throughout the early morning hours and into the mid-day of 5/4/19, EPA and START conducted air monitoring with a MultiRae 5-gas meter in the adjacent neighborhood downwind (south of Site), which included an elementary school, daycare, church, apartment buildings (west of the Site), and adjacent business; no elevated readings were detected.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

WFD and Illinois Fire Marshall have control of the Site, as the search remains ongoing for the 1 unaccounted for employees, who are presumed dead. Once the recovery of the bodies has been completed, Site cleanup operations can commence. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation as of 5/7/19, and investigators state that it could take up to a month to pinpoint the cause of the explosion.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

5/4/19 - 5/5/19

Throughout the early morning hours and into the mid-day of 5/4/19, EPA and START conducted air monitoring with a MultiRae 5-gas meter in the adjacent neighborhood downwind (south of Site), which included an elementary school, daycare, church, apartment buildings (west of the Site), and adjacent business; no elevated readings were detected. WFD established perimeter air monitoring with AreaRae's at the Site while fighting the fire. When WFD demobilized from the Site, they were not observing any elevated readings from their instruments.

Efforts were made initially to try and contain fire suppression water in a detention basin along Sunset Avenue; however, the fire suppression water overwhelmed containment measures and entered the storm drain system at some point during the night. The storm drain system flows west with eventual outfall to the Des Plaines River. EPA and START collected a sample of fire suppression water where available near the detention basin located along Sunset Avenue. An additional sample of fire suppression water was collected from a ditch area located just east of the facility. START conducted reconnaissance of the storm drain system to determine if the water daylights anywhere prior to the Des Plaines River. START surveyed an area west of the intersection of Sunset Avenue and North Delany Road where it was believed that the storm drain outfalls to a creek. START was not able to find this outfall. They further searched this undeveloped area/field and did notice some standing water/ponding water, but this water appeared to be rain water from the heavy rains that occurred earlier in the week.

EPA was able to meet with the Facility's CEO on the afternoon of 5/4/19. EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest to AB Specialty Silicones, LLC to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to address threatened releases of hazardous substances from the Site. AB Specialty Silicones, LLC has agreed to: 1) fence and secure the Site throughout cleanup process; 2) protect work safety, public safety, and the environment throughout the cleanup process including procurement of the appropriately trained contractors to prepare plans and conduct the work; 3) cleanup any hazardous substances released or threatening release and package for appropriate off site disposal; 4) protect storm drains from any run off from the Site; 5) coordinate the cleaning of storm sewers with the City of Waukegan. AB Specialty Silicones, LLC also provided EPA Consent for Access verbally during this meeting.

5/6/19 - 5/7/19

The Site remains under the control of the Coroner and Fire Marshall as the search for the final unaccounted for employee remains ongoing. Site response work remains focused on mitigation of any storm water run off and preparation for response and removal operations once the Site is released back to the PRP.

The PRP's contractor continues to manage any storm water run off from the site on a 24-hour basis. EPA coordinated discussions between City of Waukegan Public Works and LCSMC to ensure proper cleaning of storm sewers impacted by fire suppression water. Cleaning of City of Waukegan storm sewers was completed on 5/7/19, and cleaning of the LCSMC storm sewers is underway and will continue on 5/8/19. Additionally, the PRP's contractor has made arrangement to remove potentially contaminated soils and vegetation from the detention basin where fire suppression water was initially contained. The soil will be containerized into rolloff containers and will be sampled for waste classification.

On 5/7/19, EPA OSC met with representatives from OSHA and CSB. During the OSHA and CSB investigation, EPA will continue to have access to the Site to direct and conduct response actions to mitigate releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances.

EPA facilitated site visits with IEPA Office of Emergency Response and Bureau of Water on 5/7/19. Discussions focused on site status updates, storm sewer cleaning progress, and additional downstream reconnaissance of potential impacts of fire suppression water near Osprey Lake and the Des Plaines River. A light sheen was discovered on Osprey Lake near a pedestrian foot bridge; absorbent boom was deployed to this area by the PRP's contractor. No other evidence of sheening, bank damage/staining or deceased fish/aquatic life was observed.

The PRP has retained the services of an environmental consultant to assist with the preparation of all associated plans (Health & Safety Plan, Work Plan, Air Monitoring, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and any other reports requested). The PRP's counsel is setting up a electronic database, which the EPA will be able to access the plant's chemical inventory, plant schematics and all SDSs, and has committed that the database will be accessible on 5/8/19.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

No information available at this time.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$15,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$8,500.00	56.67%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$15,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$8,500.00	56.67%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Waukegan Fire Department
Illinois State Fire Marshall

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Chemical Safety Board
City of Waukegan Department of Public Works
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Lake County Emergency Management Agency
Lake County Health Department
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
U.S. Department of Labor - Occupational Safety & Health Administration

4. Personnel On Site

5/4/19
U.S. EPA - 1
START - 2

5/5/19 - 5/7/19
U.S. EPA - 1
START - 1

5. Definition of Terms

ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CSB: Chemical Safety Board
IEPA: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
LCEMA: Lake County Emergency Management Agency
LCHD: Lake County Health Department
LCSCMC: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
OSC: On-Scene Coordinator
POLREP: Pollution Report
PRP: Potentially Responsible Party
START: Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team Contractor
U.S. EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency
WFD: Waukegan Fire Department

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.





